

REMARKS

Claims 9 and 20 are pending. Claims 9 and 20 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification of the present application at page 10, lines 10-23 and page 13, line 29 to page 14, line 29. Claims 10-15 and 18-19 were previously withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to nonelected claims. Claims 10-15 and 18-19 are now canceled by this Amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. The basis for this rejection is that the claimed methods allegedly do not recite any steps. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Nevertheless, this rejection is obviated in view of the amendments of claims 9 and 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The basis for this rejection is that the claimed methods allegedly do not point out with particularity what steps are used. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Nevertheless, this rejection is obviated in view of the amendments of claims 9 and 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The basis for this rejection is that the claimed methods allegedly omit an essential step. Applicants traverse this rejection.

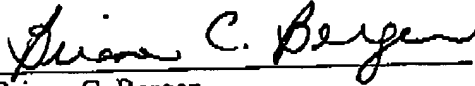
Nevertheless, this rejection is obviated in view of the amendments of claims 9 and 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

CONCLUSION

In view of the preceding remarks, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are respectfully requested. If the Examiner wishes to discuss this reply or any aspect of this case, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-3880 in the name of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

Respectfully submitted,


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